



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Monday, January 26, 2009

Arizona Department of Public Safety's GIITEM task force disrupts large-scale gang fight in North Phoenix

On January 23, 2009, at about 7:52 p.m., Central GIITEM (Gang & Immigration Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission) Officers were conducting surveillance of a possible fight with gang ties in the area of 16th Street and Union Hills at Buffalo Ridge Park. The surveillance was conducted as part of a criminal investigation into gang activity in North Phoenix.

Detectives observed suspect vehicles arrive in the area. A fight ensued with a crowd of 30 onlookers. GIITEM Detectives coordinated a response with Phoenix Police Patrol and Gang Units along with the Peoria Police Gang Unit. Twenty five subjects were detained.

The investigation resulted in the arrest of three people.

Arrested: Daniel Marielli, 18, Phoenix
Kyle Kelly, 23, Phoenix
(a minor was also arrested)

Additional suspects are at large and the investigation is ongoing.

Charges: Prohibited Possession of a Firearm, Prohibited Possession Body Armor, Resisting Arrest, Possession of Marijuana, Disorderly Conduct, Criminal Trespass and a misdemeanor warrant for Criminal Damage.

Those involved in the fight tossed weapons into the bushes as police arrived. One of those arrested was wearing body armor and another was wanted on an outstanding warrant. Evidence recovered from the scene included two handguns, one bullet proof vest, four batons, three brass knuckles and one lead pipe.

"This is a sample of the work performed everyday by the Central GIITEM East Enforcement Squad. By monitoring possible gang activity and making arrests, GIITEM officers are making communities safer throughout Arizona," said Roger Vanderpool, director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

photo of the weapons seized available on request

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